One-sided, as usual

4/24/89

Roy Meachum's column "Shattered hope," published on the eve of Passover (April 19), relating to old matters and hung on a peg of a week earlier, is beautifully timed to reflect his solicitude for the feelings of Jews as they remember one of the innumerable abuses they suffered throughout recorded time at the hands of those now known as Muslims.

As usual, in Mr. Meachum's one-sided presentation he takes liberties with history and with fact.

Of the event that is the peg, more of the casualties that will not end as long as the uprising in the holy land continues, he says, "In this instance no blame can be attached to Prime Minister Shamir, who was still in the United States."

Whatever may have prompted this first other than defamatory opinion he has published about Shamir, and the notion that it was to pretend the balance that has always been lacking is obvious, it is not correct. There is no way in which the head of any state can escape responsibility for what his government does. Shamir is responsible.

Speaking of the Camp David accords Mr. Meachum says, "Realistically, the proposition (that they be implemented) comes too late. The Camp David accords were signed . . . 10 years ago."

Mr. Meachum does not say why they were not implemented or that they were lived up to by Israel, which returned Sinai, which it had captured and developed, to Egypt. The Arabs refused to live up to that agreement as they now have rejected all offers of settlement that permitted a speck of earth to be called Israel.

He talks about "brutality against Arabs," and selects for condemnation Druses "who are considered heretics by other Muslims. The name Druse has been written 'large' in the civil wars that have destroyed Lebanon." This concatination of distortions begins with the Druses because they sided with the Jews when Israel was established. If Khomeini considers them heretics, I say up with the Druses! But to represent that the Druses were a major factor in or cause of the present agonies in Lebanon is to deceive and mislead his readers.

The immediate trigger was the PLO. It had just been kicked out of Jordan when King Hussein decided he would not let them throw him out and take that 70 percent of the original Palestine Territory over. The PLO then terrorized and took over major hunks of Lebanon. Then Syria moved in and still controls major parts of that anguished state, which it has never hidden it wants to make its own. The casualties as non-Druse Arabs have slaughtered other Arabs in Lebanon have been astronomical and have never been the topic of any of your self-proclaimed expert commentaries. On many single days these casualties have exceeded the total lives lost throughout the entire intifada.

Israel's use of Druses among its border police in which they are a minority is, Mr. Meachum says, "the Shamir regime's desperation. It can be said to represent a last gasp effort to eliminate the Palestinians and their 'problem.'"

Perhaps he can explain how Druses used in Lebanon is going to eliminate Palestinians outside of Lebanon! Or how the *News-Post's* eminent expert can conceive that it is at all possible, assuming anyone had the intent he assigns, to eliminate all the Palestinians.

Given Mr. Meachum's record I think it is appropriate and honest of him to mark the Passover as he has. When will he begin serializing the Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion? This pre-Hitler fabrication is currently available throughout the entire Muslim world in new editions being published there so Mr. Meachum ought have no trouble getting a copy.

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4/27/89

A blundering blemish

As a regular reader of your editorial page, I feel compelled to comment on one of your colum nists, Roy Meachum.

I am a 17-year-old senior in high school and have written both a college essay and a history term paper on Mr. Meachum's pet subject, the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. I severely question Mr. Meachum's opinions and the way in which this man has arrived at these conclusions. Ever time he climbs upon this, his favorite soap box, he blunders and baffles. He continually states historical and political inaccuracies. I find myself wondering if this so-called professional has even read so much as an encyclopedia article on this subject. His pieces in this area are il informed and clearly display a lack of so much as even a basic understanding.

Mr. Meachum not only embarrasses himself but makes the fine institution of *The Frederick News-Post* look terrible. Either get Mr. Meachum to crack a book or get rid of this humiliating blemish!

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